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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Second Quarter Stats Reveal Increased Demand For SBA Backed Loans During FY 2005

HELENA, MT – More Montana businesses used SBA guaranteed loans to start and expand their companies during the first six months of the current fiscal year (October 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005), than in the same period last year.

During the first half of FY 2005, the Montana SBA District Office approved 235 loans totaling \$36,874,950, compared to 222 loans worth \$29,505,661 in the same period last year. Of the 235 loans, 231 were approved under SBA's flagship 7(a) guaranteed loan program, and four loans totaling \$2,636,000 were made through the 504 Certified Development Company Program, a program that provides growing businesses with long-term, fixed-rate financing for major fixed assets, such as land and buildings. New businesses accounted for 109 of the loans totaling \$17,727,950.. Eating and drinking establishments, wholesale trade and durable goods, furniture and home furnishings, special trade contractors, professional, scientific and technical services were among the most frequently financed businesses. Fifty three loans totaling \$5,497,650 were made to women owned businesses, 27 loans totaling \$5,661,200 were made to veterans, and 22 loans totaling \$2,809,900 went to minority owned businesses.

The following lenders exceeded \$1.0 million in total SBA loan volume:(These figures **DO NOT** include participation in 504 CDC Financing)

BANK NAME	BANK CITY	Dollars	Number of Loans
First Interstate Bank	Billings	\$3,403,000.00	12
Montana Community Finance Corporation	Helena	\$2,361,000.00	3
Valley Bank of Helena	Helena	\$2,057,000.00	22
Bank of the West	Sacramento	\$2,000,000.00	1
First Security Bank	Missoula	\$1,767,000.00	9
Yellowstone Bank	Billings	\$1,661,000.00	8
Mountain West Bank National Association	Great Falls	\$1,512,000.00	5
CIT Small Business Lending Corporation	Livingston	\$1,395,000.00	2
Rocky Mountain Bank	Stevensville	\$1,332,200.00	1
Mountain West Bank National Association	Helena	\$1,190,700.00	5
First Community Bank	Three Forks	\$1,100,000.00	1
Mountain West Bank National Association	Missoula	\$1,019,000.00	5

The following lenders approved five or more loans:

BANK NAME	BANK CITY	Dollars	Number of Loans
Capital One Federal Savings Bank	McLean	\$955,000.00	24
Valley Bank of Helena	Helena	\$2,057,000.00	22
Yellowstone Bank	Laurel	\$903,000.00	14
First Interstate Bank	Billings	\$3,403,000.00	12
First Security Bank	Missoula	\$1,767,000.00	9
Innovative Bank	Oakland	\$55,000.00	9
Stockman Bank of Montana	Billings	\$852,600.00	9
Western Security Bank	Billings	\$468,900.00	8
Yellowstone Bank	Billings	\$1,661,000.00	8
Heritage Bank	Great Falls	\$980,000.00	7
Wells Fargo Bank National Association	Billings	\$455,000.00	6
Mountain West Bank National Association	Helena	\$1,190,700.00	5
Mountain West Bank National Association	Great Falls	\$1,512,000.00	5
Farmers State Bank	Victor	\$904,050.00	5
Mountain West Bank National Association	Missoula	\$1,019,000.00	5
Wells Fargo Bank National Association	Bozeman	\$516,000.00	5

Certified Development Company – 504 Loans

BANK NAME	Dollars	Number of Loans
Montana Community Finance Corporation	\$2,361,000.00	3
High Plains Financial, Inc.	\$275,000.00	1

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The following counties exceeded \$1.0 million in loans:

County name	Dollars	Number of Loans
Yellowstone	\$10,375,150.00	72
Gallatin	\$3,503,000.00	17
Missoula	\$3,431,500.00	22
Lewis & Clark	\$3,284,300.00	29
Silver Bow	\$3,062,400.00	9
Ravalli	\$2,810,000.00	13
Flathead	\$2,662,600.00	9
Cascade	\$2,655,000.00	15

The following counties with ten or more loans:

County name	Dollars	Number of Loans
Yellowstone	\$10,375,150.00	72
Lewis & Clark	\$3,284,300.00	29
Missoula	\$3,431,500.00	22
Gallatin	\$3,503,000.00	17
Cascade	\$2,655,000.00	15
Ravalli	\$2,810,000.00	13

The following holding companies approving ten or more loans:

Holding Company	Number of Loans
Glacier Bancorp, Inc.	45
Capital One Financial Corporation	24
Yellowstone Holding Company	23
WFC Holdings Corporation	19
Mountain West Financial Corporation	18
First Interstate Bancsystem, Inc.	16
Stockman Financial Corporation	14
United Financial Corp.	11

The following holding companies exceeded \$1.0 million in loans:

County name	Dollars
Glacier Bancorp, Inc.	\$5,302,900
Mountain West Financial Corp.	\$4,089,700
First Interstate Bancsystem, Inc.	\$3,692,000
Yellowstone Holding Company	\$2,772,000
United Financial Corp.	\$2,218,000
WFC Holdings Corporation	\$2,013,700
Bank of the West	\$2,000,000
CIT Small Business Lending Corp.	\$1,519,000
Heartland Financial USA, Inc.	\$1,375,000
Stockman Financial Corporation	\$1,140,100
First Community Bancorp, Inc.	\$1,100,000

For additional information, please contact the SBA Montana District Office at (406) 441-1081.